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NORTH CAROLINA

Farm Report

COOPERATIVE CROP REPORTING SERVICE



No. 140

RALEIGH, N. C.

AUGUST 17, 1953

N.C. Flue-Cured Production 7.2 Percent Below Last Year

Based on the condition of the crop as of August 1, the total 1953 production of flue-cured tobacco in North Carolina is estimated at 833,260,000 pounds. This is 51,965,000 pounds less than the July 1 estimate. A flue-cured crop of 833,260,000 pounds, if realized, would be 7.2 percent less than the 1952 crop of 898,090,000 pounds.

Estimated flue-cured production in the State this year by types compared with 1952 follows: Type 11: 267,000,000 pounds in 1953 compared with 330,050,000

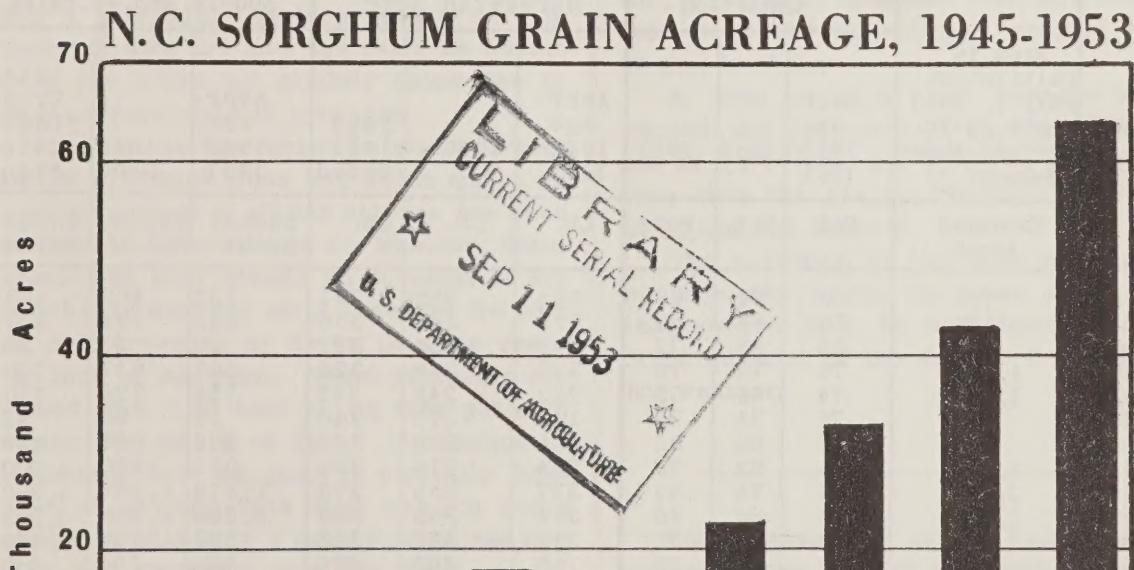
(Continued on Page 2)

August 1, 1953 Cotton Report

Based upon August 1 prospects as reported by growers throughout the State, the North Carolina 1953 cotton crop is estimated at 460,000 bales (500 pounds gross weight). Such a crop would be 19.2 percent less than the 569,000 bales produced last year and 11.9 percent below the 10-year (1942-51) average production of 522,000 bales.

The 1953 growing season for cotton got off to a favorable start with stands reported to be the best in several years. Weed growth and fruiting were good until late in July when shedding of squares and

(Continued on Page 2)



1945 1946 1947 1948 1949 1950 1951 1952 1953

COTTON (Continued)

small bolls became heavy due to a combination of dry weather and weevil damage. Weevil infestation is much heavier in practically all sections of the State than a year ago. Loss to the weevil is expected to run considerably above average.

Assuming average abandonment after July 1, the acreage for harvest this year would be 759,000 acres, compared with 745,000 acres harvested last year.

Based upon August 1 condition, it is estimated that lint yield will average 291 pounds per acre, compared with 366 pounds last season and the average of 345 pounds.

The U. S. cotton crop is estimated at 14,605,000 bales -- about 4 percent less than the 15,136,000 bales harvested in 1952, but nearly 20 percent above the 10-year average. Production prospects are below the 1952 crop in all states except South Carolina, Florida, Tennessee, Alabama, Oklahoma and Arizona where slightly larger crops are expected.

COTTON. Condition, Estimated Acreage For Harvest And Production, August 1, 1953, All States

STATE	Area in Cultivation July 1, 1953 Less 10-Yr. Average Aban- donment ^{1/}	August 1 Condition			Lint Yield Per Harvested Acre			Production(Ginnings) 500-lb.gro.wt.bales		
		Aver- age 1942- 1951	1952	1953	Aver- age 1942- 1951	1952	1953 Indi- cated	Aver- age 1942- 1951	1952 Crop	1953 Crop Indi- cated Aug. 1
		Thousand Acres	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Thous. Bales	Thous. Bales
N. C.	759	80	84	79	345	366	291	522	569	460
Mo.	499	76	83	83	379	385	356	345	394	370
Va.	29	83	85	72	362	424	331	20	23	20
S. C.	1,074	76	70	78	315	286	324	697	657	725
Ga.	1,354	74	66	75	252	245	252	716	729	710
Fla.	64	76	74	73	192	271	240	15	30	32
Tenn.	891	77	68	85	364	366	350	543	638	650
Ala.	1,580	75	62	79	285	275	304	911	890	1,000
Miss.	2,374	77	74	84	337	385	376	1,670	1,906	1,860
Ark.	1,836	76	66	80	334	345	320	1,355	1,366	1,225
La.	905	74	77	76	314	408	363	568	756	685
Oklahoma	984	73	78	85	160	105	176	429	264	360
Tex.	9,284	77	72	70	183	171	182	3,162	3,808	3,525
N. Mex.	312	91	94	89	483	527	455	173	330	296
Ariz.	675	92	95	93	525	682	676	312	948	951
Calif.	1,396	92	93	86	615	622	593	763	1,818	1,725
Other States	16	76	94	84	355	337	339	13	10	11
U. S.	24,032	77	75	79	271.4	282.7	291.7	12,215	15,136	14,605

^{1/} From natural causes

TOBACCO (Continued)

pounds in 1952; Type 12: 450,160,000 pounds compared with 452,120,000 last year; Type 13: 116,100,000 compared with 115,920,000 pounds in 1952. The yield per acre by Types is estimated as follows: Type 11: 1,000 pounds; Type 12: 1,360; and Type 13: 1,350 pounds.

Total United States flue-cured production is currently estimated at 1,270,282,000 pounds or 9.3 percent below total production of 1,365,341,000 pounds last year.

Burley production in North Carolina is currently estimated at 19,775,000 pounds or nearly 2 percent below last year.

With output of cigarettes up 5 percent from 1951-52, domestic use of flue-cured and burley tobacco in 1952-53 is expected to exceed any previous year.

N. C. Hay Prospects Decline

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Hot dry weather continued throughout July in some areas, particularly in the central and northern Piedmont counties and by August 1 a very large portion of the State was dry to very dry. Under these conditions the prospective yield of some hays were considerably lower than was the case a month earlier. Total 1953 production is now forecast at 1,229,000 tons from 1,207,000 acres, compared with 1,335,000 tons a month ago and is 7 percent below the 1,325,000 tons produced on 1,227,000 acres in 1952. Average yield for all hay is placed at 1.02 tons per acre compared with 1.08 a year ago.

Alfalfa yields are expected to average 2.05 tons per acre instead of the 2.20 tons in prospect a month earlier. However this would equal the yield of 1952 and approach the 10 year average yield of 2.10 tons per acre. Clover Timothy hay which is grown largely in the western mountain areas of the State have not suffered as much from drought and current prospects point to a crop of 116,000 tons, only slightly lower than the forecast a month earlier and a year ago. Yield prospects at 1.10 tons per acre are now the same as for the past two years but slightly below the 10 year average yield of 1.14 tons.

Lespedeza hay which is grown largely in the Piedmont areas and which makes up over 40 percent of all hay acreage has been hardest hit by continued dry weather. Some areas had poor stands as a result of dry weather in May and early June and the crop is now browning or dying in some areas for lack of moisture. Yield prospects declined from 1.10 tons to .95 tons per acre during the month of July. Production of lespedeza hay for 1953 is currently forecast at 487,000 tons from 513,000 acres compared with July 1 prospects of 564,000 tons and compares with the 1952 crop of 570,000 tons harvested from 518,000 acres.

Legume hays and other hays are considered to be in fair to good shape and an average crop is in prospect.

For the Nation as a whole, hay production is estimated at 105,284,000 tons -

- 1 percent above the 104,424,000 tons produced in 1952. Average yield per acre is estimated at 1.40 tons per acre -- unchanged from the previous year.

U. S. Farmers' cash receipts from marketings in the first 5 months of 1953 totaled 10.5 billion dollars, 3 percent less than in the same period last year.

Dry Weather Damages Corn Crop

On the basis of condition reports from growers, North Carolina's corn crop is estimated at 59,481,000 bushels as of August 1. This is 15,421,000 bushels or 20.6 percent less than estimated as of July 1. The decrease in production is attributed almost entirely to damage from extended dry and hot weather.

The average yield per acre is estimated at 27.0 bushels or 7.0 bushels less than the July 1 estimate. A yield of 27.0 bushels, if realized, compares with 25.5 bushels last year and the 1942-51 average yield of 27.4 bushels.

A crop of 59,481,000 bushels would exceed the 1952 crop of 56,176,000 bushels by 5.9 percent but would be 2.6 percent less than the 1942-51 average production of 61,059,000 bushels.

The condition of the corn crop varies considerably within the same area. The late seeded crop, in most instances, has received most of the damage from dry and hot weather.

Milk consumption in the United States reached a new high of 55.6 billion pounds in 1952. Nonfarm families consumed 44.2 billion pounds and farm families used 11.4 billion pounds in 1952. Per capita consumption of fluid milk and cream by the civilian population in 1952 averaged 352 pounds, or nine-tenths of a pint per day.

ACREAGE, YIELD AND PRODUCTION OF CROPS, 1952 AND INDICATED

AUGUST 1, 1953, NORTH CAROLINA

CROPS	UNIT	ACREAGE		YIELD			PRODUCTION		
		Average 1942-51	Harvested 1952	Average 1942-51	1952	Indicated 1953	Average 1942-51	1952	Indicated 1953
		Thousands						Thousands	
Corn, all.....	Bu.	2,232	2,203	27.4	25.5	27.0	61,059	56,176	59,481
Wheat, all.....	Bu.	427	396	16.1	21.0	20.0	6,860	8,316	7,760
Oats.....	Bu.	354	373	403	28.5	34.0	10,206	12,682	15,314
Barley.....	Bu.	39	43	40	26.2	32.5	1,001	1,398	1,480
Rye.....	Bu.	26	15	14	12.0	15.0	303	225	210
Sorghums, all.....	Bu.	33	58	80	-	-	-	-	-
Sorghums for grain.....	Bu.	144/	43	64	26.44/	27.0	3904/	1,161	1,728
Tobacco, Flue-cured.....	Lbs.	670.0	735.0	684	1,154	1,222	775,291	898,090	833,260
Type 11.....	Lbs.	261.7	287.0	267	1,084	1,150	284,910	330,050	267,000
Type 12.....	Lbs.	328.2	356.0	331	1,203	1,270	395,530	452,120	450,160
Type 13.....	Lbs.	80.1	92.0	86	1,180	1,260	94,852	115,920	116,100
Type 31.....	Lbs.	10.3	12.0	11.3	1,487	1,680	15,567	20,160	19,775
Cotton.....	Lbs.	729	753	7594/	345	366	5225/	569.5/	460.5/
Irish Potatoes, all.....	Bu.	74	44	47	132	124	131	9,513	5,456
Sweetpotatoes, all.....	Bu.	60	39	45	107	100	100	6,492	3,900
Soybeans grown alone.....	Bu.	400	432	393	-	-	-	-	-
Soybeans, for beans.....	Bu.	252	290	259	13.4	16.5	15.0	3,434	4,785
Peanuts grown alone.....	Bu.	294	210	193	-	-	-	-	-
Peanuts picked & threshed.....	Lbs.	277	201	185	1,106	1,550	1,300	304,009	311,550
Hay, all.....	Tons	1,266	1,227	1,207	1,01	1,08	1,02	1,280	1,325
Clover & timothy 2/.....	Tons	93	106	105	1.14	1.10	1.10	106	117
Alfalfa hay.....	Tons	30	70	77	2.10	2.05	2.05	64	144
Lespedeza hay.....	Tons	509	518	513	1.08	1.10	.95	551	570
Pasture condition.....	%	-	-	-	-	-	-	85	48
Peaches.....	Bu.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,731	1,648
Apples, commercial 2/.....	Bu.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,067	2,053
Grapes.....	Tons	-	-	-	-	-	-	179	172

1/ Area in cultivation July 1, 1953 less 10-year average abandonment from natural causes. 2/ Excludes sweetclover and lespedeza hay. 3/ Estimates of the commercial crop refer to the total production of apples in the commercial apple areas of each state. 4/ Short-time average. 5/ 500 lb. gross weight bales.

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**ACREAGE, YIELD AND PRODUCTION OF CROPS, 1952 AND INDICATED
AUGUST 1, 1953. UNITED STATES**

CROPS	UNIT	ACREAGE			YIELD			PRODUCTION		
		Average 1942-51	Harvested 1952	Indicated 1953	Average 1942-51	1952	Indicated 1953	Average 1942-51	1952	Indicated 1953
		Thousands			Units			Thousands		
Corn, all.....	Bu.	86,447	81,359	80,694	35.2	40.6	41.3	3,036,380	3,306,735	3,330,418
Wheat, all.....	Bu.	45,249	50,348	46,105	17.6	20.9	19.1	797,237	1,052,801	878,331
Oats.....	Bu.	39,503	38,643	39,433	33.5	32.8	31.2	1,324,614	1,268,280	1,231,197
Barley.....	Bu.	11,831	8,264	8,455	25.1	27.5	28.8	295,299	227,008	243,869
Rye.....	Bu.	2,108	1,285	1,375	12.2	11.5	12.7	25,837	15,910	17,452
Sorghums, all.....	Bu.	14,108	10,841	13,617	18.4	16.4	16.1	-	-	-
Sorghums for grain.....	Bu.	7,347	5,089	6,848	1,655.6	1,158	1,272	1,260	1,948,844	2,254,855
Tobacco, all.....	Lbs.	1,677.4	1,773.0	1,030.9	24,032.1	1,144	1,229	1,232	1,144,616	1,365,341
Tobacco, flue-cured.....	Lbs.	996.9	1,111.3	26,922	1,501.7	271.4	282.7	291.7	12,215.5	15,136.5
Cotton.....	Lbs.	22,029	2,265.2	1,398.0	351.6	191.2	248.6	254.9	411,007	347,504
Irish potatoes, all.....	Bu.	583.3	325.8	325.8	15,643	15,781	193.6	86.8	54,331	28,292
Sweetpotatoes.....	Bu.	13,300	14,075	14,335	-	-	-	-	-	-
Soybeans grown alone.....	Bu.	11,114	14,114	14,075	19.7	20.7	20.6	219,596	291,682	295,018
Soybeans, for beans.....	Bu.	3,664	1,938	1,895	-	-	-	-	-	-
Peanuts grown alone.....	Lbs.	2,951	1,459	-	714	928	908	2,062,522	1,354,010	1,376,985
Peanuts picked & threshed.....	Tons	74,666	74,664	74,967	1.37	1.40	1.40	102,296	104,424	105,284
Hay, all.....	Tons	15,925	19,024	20,019	2.21	2.23	2.15	35,252	42,438	43,135
Alfalfa.....	Tons	22,087	21,683	21,276	1.40	1.46	1.39	31,024	31,755	29,671
Clover & Timothy ^{2/}	Tons	6,629	5,661	6,125	1.07	.91	.95	7,110	5,147	5,804
Lespedeza.....	%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	67,012	62,560
Pasture condition.....	Bu.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	109,224	92,489
Peaches ^{3/}	Bu.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30,396	30,947
Apples, commercial.....	Bu.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,874.2
Pears.....	Tons	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,173.4
Grapes.....								-	-	2,713.6

^{1/} Area in cultivation July 1, 1953 less 10-year average abandonment from natural causes. ^{2/} Excludes sweetclover and lespedeza hay. ^{3/} Production includes some quantities unharvested on account of economic conditions. ^{4/} Estimates of the commercial crop refer to the total production of apples in the commercial apple areas of each state. ^{5/} 500-lb. gross weight basis.

^{1/} Area in cultivation July 1, 1953 less 10-year average abandonment from natural causes. ^{2/} Excludes sweetclover and lespedeza hay. ^{3/} Production includes some quantities unharvested on account of economic conditions. ^{4/} Estimates of the commercial crop refer to the total production of apples in the commercial apple areas of each state. ^{5/} 500-lb. gross weight basis.

Soybean Production Below Last Year

August 1 reports from growers indicate a 19 percent decline from last year's soybean production. The expected production of 3,885,000 bushels, if realized, will be the lowest since 1948, but will be 451,000 bushels above the 1942-1951 average.

The 1953 yield is currently estimated at 15 bushels per acre. This is 1.5 bushels less than the record high yields of the past two years.

The decline in acreage this year accounts for part of the decrease in production. Tar Heel growers planted 259,000 acres this year compared with 290,000 acres harvested in 1952 and the 10-year average of 252,000 acres.

July Egg Production

North Carolina farm flocks produced a total of 109 million eggs during July -- an increase of 9 million eggs over the July 1950 production, the previous record holder for July output.

The number of layers on farms during July is estimated at 7,638,000. This compares with 7,245,000 layers on farms during July 1952.

The rate of lay for July was 1,432 eggs per 100 layers, compared with 1,333 during July of the previous year. This also set a new record high, exceeding the old record of 1,383 set in July 1951.

Record Monthly Milk Production In N. C.

Estimated milk production in North Carolina totaled 165 million pounds during July -- an all-time record for monthly production. The previous record of 159 million pounds was set in May of this year. The 165 million pounds produced in July of this year compares with 146 million pounds produced in July 1952 and a 10-year average of 147 million pounds for July.

Sweetpotato Prospects Decline

As of August 1, a North Carolina sweet potato crop of 4,500,000 bushels is estimated for 1953. This is a reduction of 9 percent from the July 1 forecast and almost 31 percent below the 1942-51 average production of 6,492,000 bushels but is 15 percent above last year's crop of 3,900,000 bushels.

Yield is now placed at 100 bushels per acre, the same as the average yield last year but 7 bushels per acre below the 10-year average.

The currently estimated acreage of 45,000 acres compares with 39,000 acres harvested in 1952 and the 1942-51 average of 60,000 acres.

For the United States, production of sweetpotatoes is estimated at 33,721,000 bushels, on the basis of crop conditions as of August 1. This indicated crop is 19 percent larger than last year's unusually short crop, but is more than a third smaller than the 1942-51 average.

Record N. C. Sorghum Acreage Indicated

North Carolina farmers have indicated they will harvest 64,000 acres of sorghum for grain in 1953. This is the largest crop on record for the State and 49 percent greater than the previous record of 43,000 acres harvested for grain in 1952.

The average yield is estimated at 27.0 bushels per acre -- the same as the average yield in 1952. Total production is currently estimated at 1,728,000 bushels, a 49 percent increase over the 1,161,000 bushels produced in 1952.

Nation-wide the estimated sorghum grain acreage is 6,848,000 acres compared to 5,089,000 acres harvested in 1952 -- a 35 percent increase. The current yield estimate for the Nation is placed at 16.1 bushels per acre compared with the 16.4 bushels per acre harvested in 1952. Estimated production is set at 110,027,000 bushels -- 32 percent above the 83,316,000 bushels produced in 1952.

JULY WEATHER SUMMARY

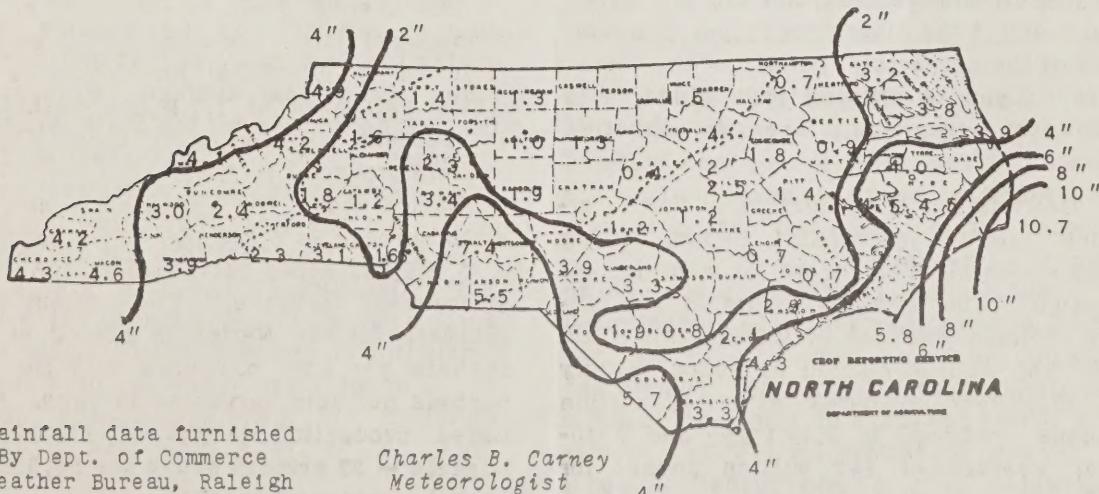
The main feature of July weather in North Carolina was the drought. For the greater part of the month, high pressure centered over or north of North Carolina tended to push west of the mountains any moisture moving northward out of the Gulf of Mexico, while at the same time holding off moist air currents approaching from the Atlantic side. Three fourths of the daylight hours were sunny; in many places it was the driest July on record, and the average rainfall over the State was one of the three lowest in over sixty Julys. Offshore storms on the 10th, 14th and 27th made for greater cloudiness and more shower activity along the coast, and the occasional movement from northwest to southeast of weak weather fronts stimulated thunder-showers in the mountains. The Piedmont, however, was seldom affected by either of these influences, and so received only widely scattered and infrequent showers.

Precipitation had the usual spotty character of summer showers, and in spite of the general rainfall shortage, a few places had more than the normal July amount. Most of the nearly eleven inches that fell at Hatteras came in one six inch down-

pour on the 20th, but reports from two localities in Stanly County indicate their large total was composed of four separate rains of an inch or more, plus smaller showers. All other reports received show less than normal July rainfall, and several localities in the Piedmont and interior Coastal Plain had less than an inch total for the month. Raleigh's total of 0.38 inch is only about one third as much as fell in July, 1932, the driest previous July in 87 years.

Temperatures averaged only a little above normal in July, although there were more hot days than usual. In the Piedmont there were nearly twice the average July number of days with 90 degrees or higher, but the only day on which temperatures generally climbed to 100 or higher was the 31st. In general, the weather was cool from the 10th through the 16th, and on the 25th and 26th; otherwise it was average or warmer. Nights were not oppressively warm except for one or two at the beginning and again at the end of July. In comparison with the heat that prevailed in the last half of July, 1952, July of this year was mild.

NORTH CAROLINA - INCHES OF RAINFALL, JULY 1953



Rainfall data furnished
By Dept. of Commerce
Weather Bureau, Raleigh

Charles B. Carney
Meteorologist

FARM REPORT

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Fruit Crops Below Last Year—Record Pecan Crop Indicated

Fruit prospects, with the exception of pears, remained unchanged from the July 1 forecasts. Drouth conditions during the past month reduced prospective pear yields to some extent, but did not materially affect the other fruit crops. Harvesting of the commercial portion of the State's peach crop is drawing to a close, with growers reporting a favorable marketing season. The APPLE crop has suffered considerable freeze damage, cutting the number set, but size and quality are expected to be good.

The August 1 forecast places North Carolina's commercial apple production at 944,000 bushels, compared with the 1952 record-high crop of 2,053,000 bushels and the 1942-51 average of 1,067,000 bushels.

Peach production for 1953 is currently estimated at 1,300,000 bushels -- about

21 percent below the 1952 crop of 1,648,000 bushels and 25 percent below the 10-year average of 1,731,000 bushels.

The 1953 pear crop is now estimated at 147,000 bushels, 5 percent below the July 1 forecast; 25,000 bushels below production last year, and 32,000 bushels below the 10-year average. Prospective GRAPE production for the State, based on growers' reports, is estimated at 2,600 tons. This is 100 tons under last year's production and 1,240 tons below the 1942-51 average. The first forecast of the 1953 North Carolina PECAN crop placed production at 4,017,000 pounds. If such a production is realized, it will be the highest of record, exceeding the previous record-high of 3,670,000 pounds set in 1941. The 1952 crop was 2,546,000 pounds.